



**AUTO ALLIANCE**  
DRIVING INNOVATION®

April XX, 2014

**RE: House Bill 5263 – An Act Making Minor and Technical Changes to Department of Consumer Protection Statutes**

Dear :

On behalf of the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers – a trade association of twelve of the world's leading passenger car and light truck manufacturers – I am writing to express our concerns with Section 1 of House Bill 5263.

Section 1 of HB 5263 amends the existing statute on lemon law arbitrations by removing the requirement that an expert sit as a non-voting member of the arbitration panel whenever oral testimony is provided. While we understand there is no longer an arbitration panel in Connecticut and cases are heard by a single arbitrator, we are concerned that the removal of this language may infringe upon a party's right to due process in these arbitrations.

The Alliance contends that due process affords both parties in a lemon law dispute the right to question and cross-examine the case expert's recommendations, findings, and qualifications. Our concern with eliminating the requirement that the expert must attend hearings where oral arguments are provided is that both parties will lose the opportunity to engage that expert as they comment on the case or the testimony provided.

The Alliance recommends that the language be left intact or that language preserving the right for both parties to question the expert's recommendations, findings, and qualifications be inserted into the statute.

Thank you for your consideration of the Alliance's position on this legislation.

Sincerely,

Laura Dooley  
Director, State Affairs

Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

BMW Group • Chrysler Group LLC • Ford Motor Company • General Motors Company • Jaguar Land Rover •

Mazda • Mercedes-Benz USA • Mitsubishi Motors • Porsche • Toyota • Volkswagen • Volvo

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